

Culicicapa match those of *Rhipidura* in this respect; their actions are similar to those recorded by Whistler (1949) for *R. aureola*, a typical fantail.

The similarity between *Culicicapa* and *Rhipidura* is emphasized by the colour and pattern of their eggshells, a point which does not seem to have been referred to previously. Apart from the immaculate pale blue or white eggs of such species as *Ficedula hypoleuca*, *F. albicollis* and *F. strophiatea*, the eggs of the Muscipapini are whitish, greenish or bluish in ground colour, spotted, blotched or clouded with red-brown, umber and grey generally over the entire shell. The eggs of the Rhipidurini on the other hand are highly distinctive. Save those of *R. hypoxantha*, which have a solid cap of pinkish-brown at the large end, the eggs of all species of *Rhipidura* are pale or rich cream in ground colour, with a ring around the large end or the equator of brownish and greyish spots and blotches. Markings are often present over the rest of the shell, as in *R. fuliginosa*, but are never as heavy or concentrated as in the ring. The eggs of *Culicicapa ceylonensis*, of which there is a long series in the collections of the B.M. (N.H.), are identical in colour and position of markings with those of *Rhipidura*.

To summarize: in the arrangement of the rectal setae, mode of feeding and colour of eggs, *Culicicapa* bears a closer resemblance to *Rhipidura* than to any of the muscipapine genera, and because of this it seems appropriate to include it in the tribe Rhipidurini rather than in the Muscipapini.

I should like to thank Mr. J. D. Macdonald of the Bird Section of the B.M.(N.H.) for reading through the ms. of this note.

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Note on the Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* (Müller) in southern Africa

by WALTER J. LAWSON

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In a paper on the southern African races of *Terpsiphone viridis* I showed (Lawson 1962) that three races must be admitted as occurring in southern Africa, these being *T.v. granti* (Roberts), 1948: Duivenhoek River, Swellendam, Cape Province, the southern race; *T. v. violacea* (Grant & Mackworth-Praed), 1940: Fort Hill, Nyasaland occurring throughout the southern and central Moçambique, northern and western Transvaal, Bechuanaland Protectorate, northern South-West Africa, southern Angola, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and eastern Northern Rhodesia, and *T. v. plumbeiceps* Reichenow, 1898: Malanje, Angola, which ranges through northern Angola, western Northern Rhodesia and the south-eastern Congo. *T. v. violacea* and *T. v. plumbeiceps* were differentiated from one another chiefly by the former having white and the latter rufous under tail-coverts.

However, Dr. Finn Salomonsen expressed the opinion (Salomonsen 1962) that *T. v. violacea* must be regarded as a synonym of *T. v. plumbeiceps* as, of the specimens of *plumbeiceps* examined by him (Salomonsen 1949) from the type-locality, two had white under tail-coverts, four yellowish and one cinnamon. He therefore appended the name *T. v. plumbeiceps* to the populations with white and yellowish under tail-coverts, using the name *T. v. subrufa* Salomonsen, 1949: Kapulo, south-eastern Congo, for the populations with cinnamon under tail-coverts of northern Angola and south-eastern Congo. Chapin (1953) placed *subrufa* as a synonym of *plumbeiceps*.

The correct allocation of the names available for these white or cinnamon vented birds can only be determined by reference to the type-specimen of *plumbeiceps*, which race was based on specimens from a zone of intergradation between a race with white and one with cinnamon under tail-coverts. The colour of the under tail-coverts of the type-specimen of *plumbeiceps* would reveal from which population it was drawn, and consequently to which the name must be attached.

Enquiries made of Herr G. Mauersberger of the Zoological Museum, Berlin, who kindly examined the type-specimen of *T. v. plumbeiceps*, which is housed in the collection in his care, revealed that it is a male, collected by von Mechow on the 9th October, 1879 near Malange, Angola, and that it has purely white under tail-coverts.

As a result of this finding the name *T. v. plumbeiceps* must be used for the populations called *T. v. violacea* in my 1962 paper with white under tail-coverts, and the name *violacea* must be placed in the synonymy of *T. v. plumbeiceps*. In addition the name *T. v. subrufa* must be used for the populations with yellowish or cinnamon under tail-coverts of northern Angola, the south-eastern Congo and western Northern Rhodesia, called *T. v. plumbeiceps* in my previous paper.

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The re-discovery of an African owl *Bubo vosseleri*

by R. E. MOREAU

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In *J. Orn.* 1908: 139 Reichenow described as *Bubo vosseleri* an owl received from Dr. Vosseler of the Biologisches Institut, Amani, which is at about 3,000 ft. in the East Usambara Mts. of north-eastern Tanganyika, as follows (my translation):